2016 Census of Canada

Age and Sex Release

The latest release from the 2016 Census shows that Alberta remained the youngest province. The relative youthfulness of the province's population is largely due to the influx of young, working-age migrants, and slightly higher fertility than the national rate. In relation to the other provinces, Alberta had the smallest proportion of seniors, the highest share in the working ages, and registered the fastest growth of children in the country. Alberta had more millennials than baby boomers in 2016, contrary to the national picture, where the reverse was true. It was also the only province where males outnumbered females.

Alberta still the youngest province

In 2016, Alberta continued to have the youngest population among the provinces with a median age of 36.7 years, compared with the national median of 41.2 years. The relative youthfulness of the province was largely due to the inflow of younger, working age migrants from international and interprovincial sources. It is estimated that Alberta gained roughly 300,000 residents through net migration between 2011 and 2016, with the majority of these being young adults. In addition, Alberta's total fertility rate is estimated to be around 1.8 children per woman of childbearing age, while Canada's hovers around 1.6. An estimated 275,000 births occurred to Albertans between 2011 and 2016.

The 2016 Census revealed a significant first for the Canadian population; the share of seniors (16.9%) exceeded the share of children (16.6%). In contrast, Alberta had the smallest proportion of seniors (12.3%) among the provinces and one of the highest population shares of children (19.2%) (Charts 1 & 2).

Chart 1: Share of seniors aged 65 and above

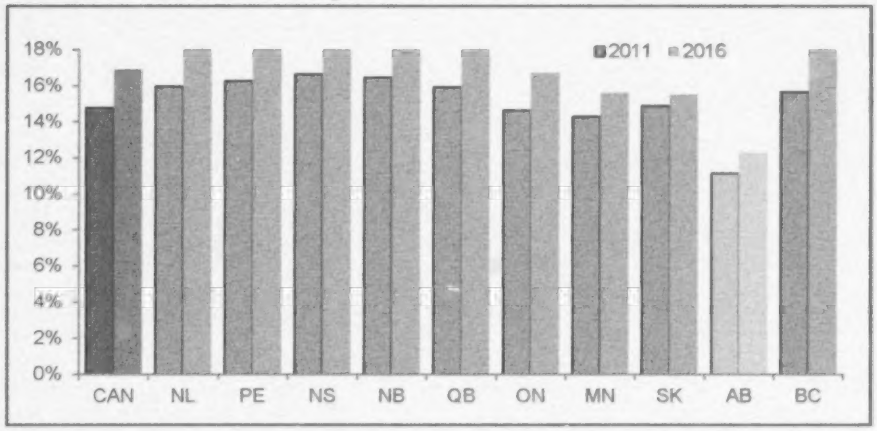
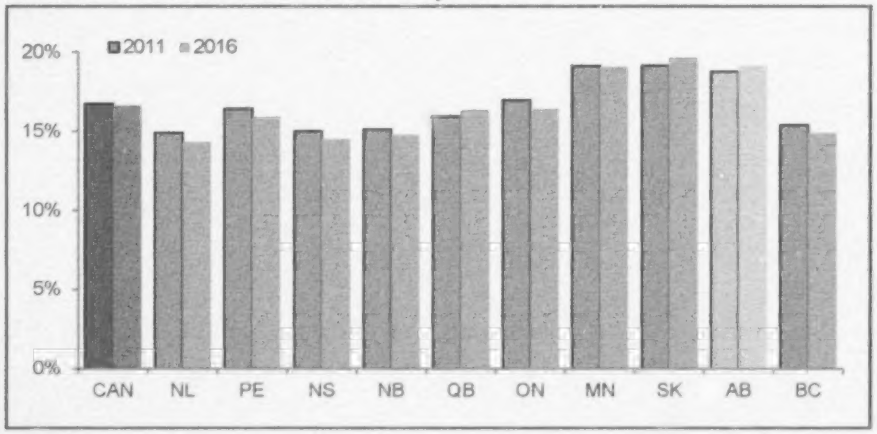


Chart 2: Share of children under 15 years old



Who is counted in the Census?

- All Canadian citizens and landed immigrants with a usual place of residence in Canada;
- Canadian citizens and landed immigrants who are abroad and are attached to a military base or diplomatic mission, or who are at sea or in port on a vessel under Canadian registry;
- Non-permanent residents (e.g., refugee claimants, those with study or work permits) who have a usual place of residence in Canada, along with any family residing with them.

For a complete definition of 'usual place of residence', follow this link:

http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/pop126-eng.cfm

Alberta Government

May 19, 2017

Treasury Board and Finance

Office of Statistics and Information - Demography

Fastest growth of child population

Almost one in five Albertans was under the age of 15 in 2016. This trend was similar in the other Prairie Provinces. The population share of children dropped between 2011 and 2016 at the national level. However, Alberta, along with Saskatchewan and Quebec, saw an increase in the proportion of children (Chart 2). The number of children in Alberta increased by about 95,000 between 2011 and 2016, representing growth of 13.8%, the highest in the country. Alberta also led the nation with the highest growth rate of children under five years of age, at 8.8% (almost 22,000) over the five year period.

Alberta's population continues to age

Population aging is a prominent trend that has affected every part of Canada, including Alberta. The province's population continued to age between 2011 and 2016, as the median age increased slightly from 36.5 to 36.7 years. Furthermore, the share of the population aged 65 and older climbed from 11.1% in 2011 to 12.3% in 2016 (Chart 1), bringing the number of Alberta seniors to about 500,000 from just over 400,000 in 2011.

The aging process throughout the country is expected to accelerate as more baby boomers enter their senior years. Baby boomers in Canada were aged 51 to 70 years in 2016 (born between 1946 and 1965). Almost one in four Albertans, or around 933,000 residents, were baby boomers in 2016. The first wave (born 1946 to 1951) were 65 to 70 years of age in 2016, boosting the share of seniors in the population. However, those born later (from the mid-1950s on) represent the largest part of the baby boom generation. As such, the pace of aging will accelerate further when they become seniors in the coming years (Chart 3).

Alberta millennials outnumber boomers, bucking national trend

At the national level, the Census recorded almost 500,000 more baby boomers than millennials (15 to 34 year olds). However, in the comparatively youthful populations of the Prairie provinces, the opposite was true; each had more millennials than baby boomers in 2016. This departure from the national trend was most pronounced in Alberta where there were about 23% more millennials, representing a difference of about 210,000 people (Chart 3). Part of this was driven by the large

Chart 3: Alberta and Canada Age Pyramids, 2016

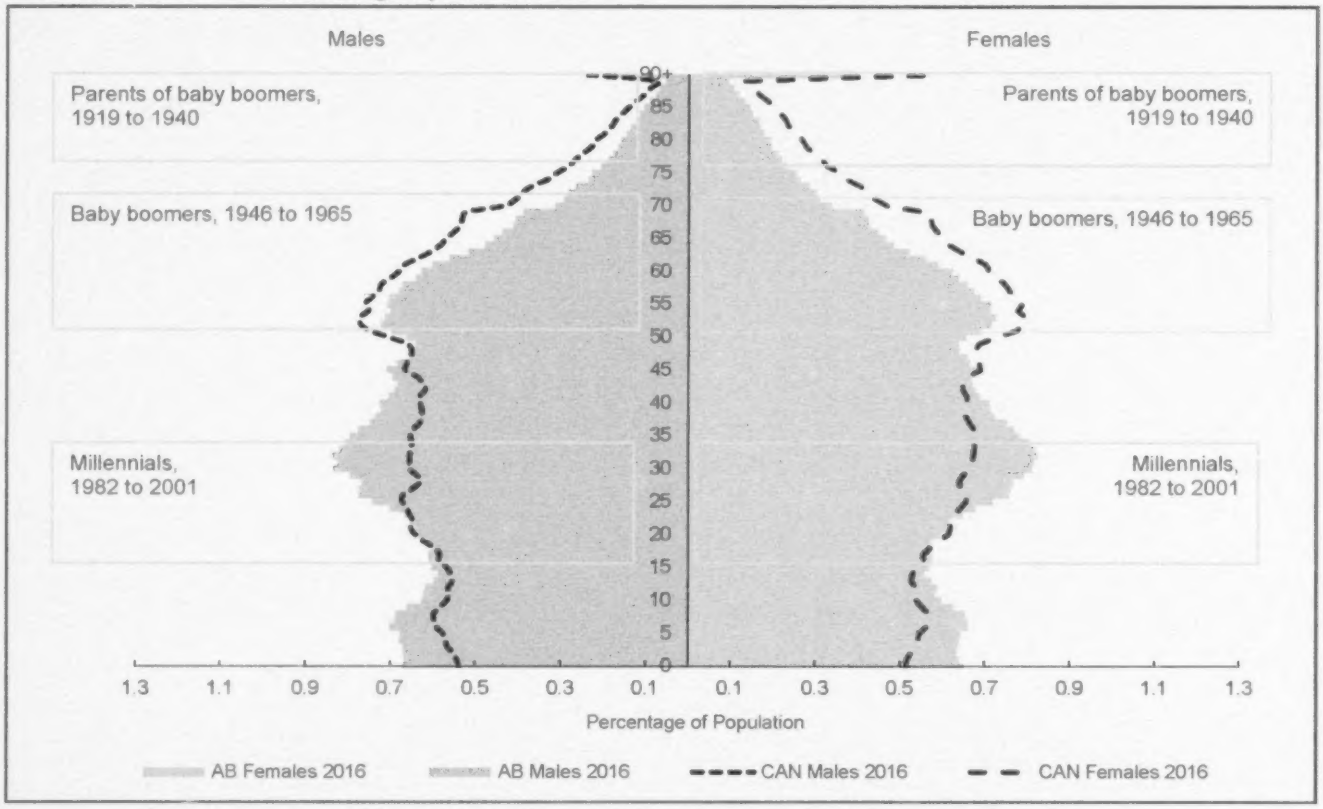
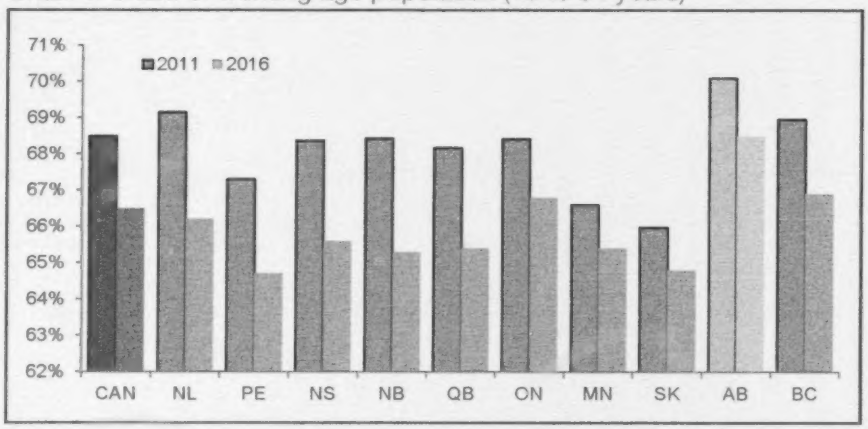


Chart 4: Share of working age population (15 to 64 years)

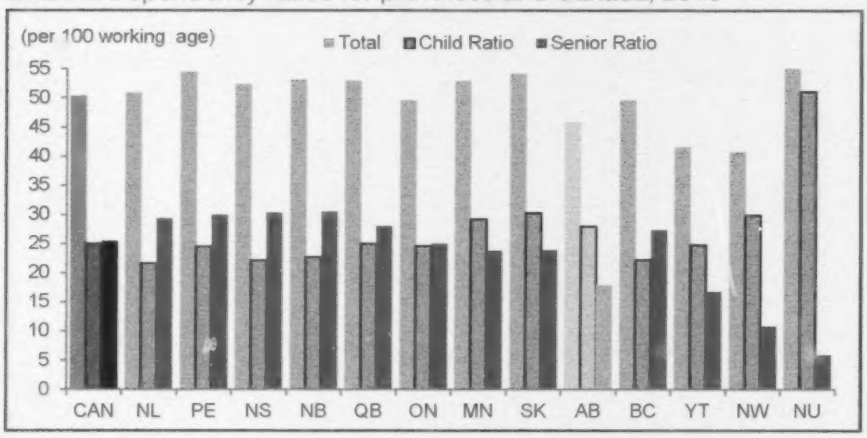


number of people who migrated to Alberta between 2011 and 2016, many of whom were millennials (aged 15 to 34 in 2016).

Highest proportion of working age population among the provinces

In 2016, about 2.8 million Albertans were of working age (15 to 64 years), comprising about 68.5% of Alberta's total population, the highest share among the provinces (Chart 4). In Canada, there were only 87 young people (aged 15 to 24) poised to enter the labour market for every 100 people approaching retirement (aged 55 to 64 years), which may present a challenge for labour force replenishment. In Alberta, however, these two age groups were balanced, each with about 500,000 in 2016. This means that the proportion of Alberta's youth is large enough to replenish the older segment of the workforce approaching retirement.

Chart 5: Dependency ratios for provinces and Canada, 2016



1 Due to the wildfire in Fort McMurray, the Census captured the population in that region as of May 1st, before the fire forced the evacuation of that area. Therefore this number does not reflect those who may have moved as a result of the fire.

2 For a detailed definition of census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations, follow this link: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/geo009-eng.cfm

The lowest total dependency ratio among provinces

Total dependency is defined as those age cohorts typically not in the labour force (i.e., under 15 years, 65 and over) relative to the working age population (15 to 64 years). In 2016, Alberta had the lowest overall ratio among the provinces with 46 dependents for every 100 people of working age, compared with a ratio of 50 at the national level (Chart 5). As the youngest province, Alberta had a higher child dependency (28 per 100 working age) and a lower senior dependency (18 per 100) than the national figures. A key factor in Alberta's lower dependency ratio is the proportion of the working age population, the largest among the provinces.

All census divisions have aged, but at different rates

Census divisions (CD) in central and southern Alberta tend to have higher proportions of seniors in their populations, while CDs in the most northerly part of the province have higher proportions of children (Table 1). Variations in fertility and migration patterns are the main drivers behind differences among the CDs. In general, census divisions with higher fertility and/or higher net migration tend to be younger. In 2016, CD 3 (Pincher Creek), with one in five residents aged 65 or older, was the oldest region in Alberta while CD 16 (Wood Buffalo)[1] was the youngest. Between 2011 and 2016 all census divisions aged, as evidenced by the increase in the proportion of seniors. Census division 19 (Grande Prairie) showed the slowest aging over the five years, while CD 4 (Hanna) had the fastest. Map 1 displays the proportion of preschool children (aged 0 to 4 years) throughout the province at the dissemination area level, the finest geographic level available from the 2016 Census. Map 2 shows the proportional distribution of seniors aged 65 and older across the province.

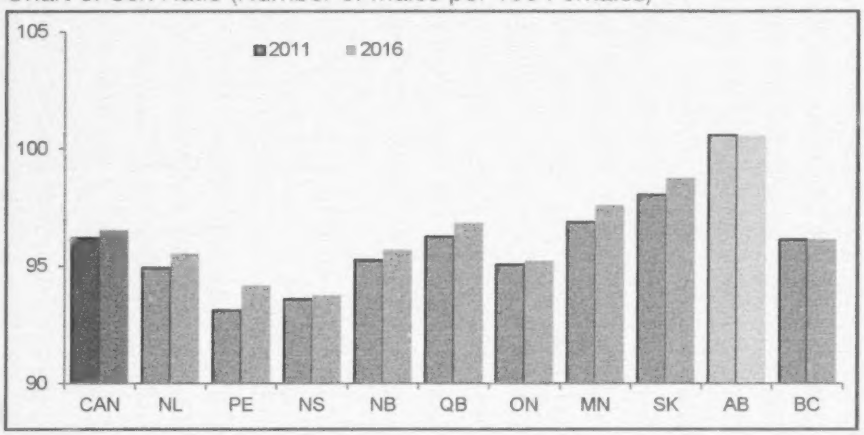
Alberta's urban centres among the youngest in the country

In 2016, Calgary and Edmonton were the youngest census metropolitan areas (CMA)[2] in Canada, with the lowest proportion of seniors (around 11% and 12%, respectively) (Table 2). Alberta's newest CMA, Lethbridge, was older, with seniors making up almost 16% of its population. In addition to being relatively young, Alberta's CMAs aged at a slower pace than most other large urban centres in Canada. The province's younger population structure was also apparent in mid-sized urban areas (census agglomerations or CAs), as half of the top ten youngest CAs nationally were in Alberta. Wood Buffalo, Cold Lake and Grande Prairie topped the list for Alberta, reflecting the general pattern of a younger population in the northern part of the province. Alberta's oldest CA was High River with almost 22% of its population aged 65 or older in 2016.

More males than females in Alberta

In 2016, there were around 101 males for every 100 females, unchanged from 2011. Alberta was the only province with a larger proportion of males than females (Chart 6). In contrast, the sex ratio in Canada stood at 96.5 in 2016, up slightly from 2011. The pattern in Alberta was largely due to the preponderance of working-age males migrating into the province between 2011 and 2016.

Chart 6: Sex Ratio (Number of Males per 100 Females)



At the regional level, 15 of the 19 census divisions in Alberta had more males than females. CD 16 (Wood Buffalo) had the highest ratio at 116.2 males to 100 females in 2016, followed by CD 18 (Grande Cache) at 112.5 and CD 14 (Edson) at 108.0. The three southernmost regions, CD 1 (Medicine Hat), CD 2 (Lethbridge) and CD 3 (Pincher Creek), had the opposite pattern at 97.5, 99.7 and 97.2, respectively. These were also among the oldest CDs of the province in 2016.

Upcoming 2016 Census of Population Releases

August 2, 2017
Families, Households and Marital Status; Language

September 13, 2017
Income

October 25, 2017
Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity; Housing; Aboriginal peoples

Contact

Jennifer Hansen 780.427.8811

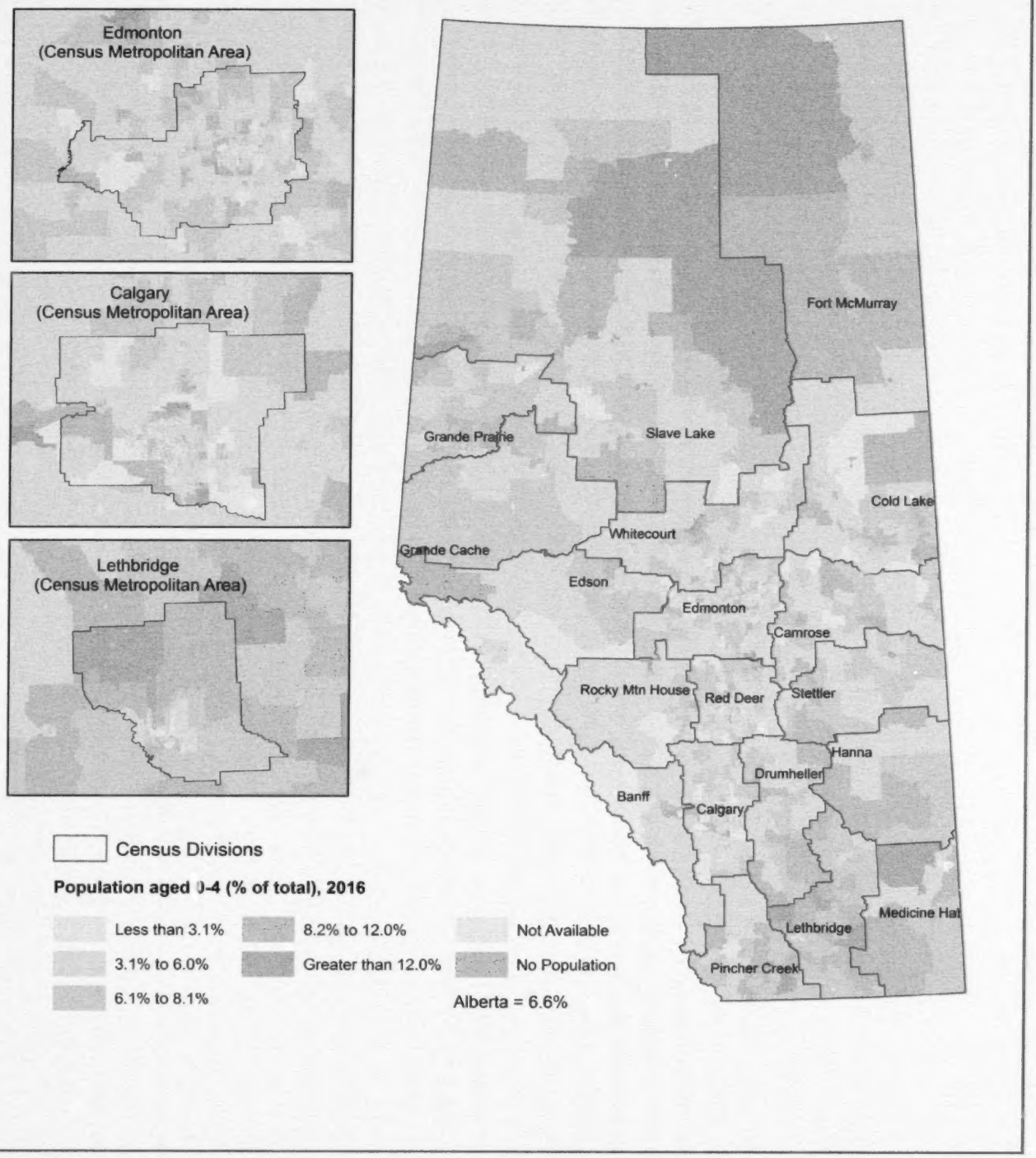
Table 1: 2016 Age structure by Census Division

2016

CD	Major City/Town	<15		15 to 64		65+		2011-2016 change (percentage points)
		Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	
1	Medicine Hat	15,660	19.0%	53,465	64.7%	13,495	16.3%	1.6
2	Lethbridge	35,275	20.8%	109,530	64.5%	24,925	14.7%	1.4
3	Pincher Creek	8,040	20.6%	23,000	59.0%	7,925	20.3%	2.6
4	Hanna	1,740	18.2%	5,985	62.5%	1,850	19.3%	2.7
5	Drumheller	11,005	19.8%	35,530	63.8%	9,170	16.5%	2.3
6	Calgary	282,180	18.8%	1,046,735	69.8%	169,860	11.3%	1.3
7	Stettler	7,890	19.0%	26,520	63.8%	7,165	17.2%	1.5
8	Red Deer	41,070	19.6%	141,555	67.6%	26,775	12.8%	1.3
9	Rocky Mountain House	4,235	20.3%	13,470	64.5%	3,165	15.2%	2.5
10	Camrose	18,900	19.4%	61,970	63.6%	16,580	17.0%	1.1
11	Edmonton	252,495	18.5%	943,910	69.1%	169,650	12.4%	0.9
12	St.Paul	14,650	21.8%	44,350	66.1%	8,120	12.1%	0.8
13	Whitecourt	13,095	18.4%	45,865	64.6%	12,060	17.0%	1.9
14	Edson	5,575	19.0%	20,000	68.3%	3,715	12.7%	1.8
15	Banff	5,875	15.2%	28,000	72.5%	4,710	12.2%	2.1
16	Wood Buffalo	15,020	20.3%	56,865	76.9%	2,105	2.8%	0.9
17	Slave Lake	17,180	27.9%	38,660	62.8%	5,750	9.3%	1.4
18	Grande Cache	2,955	20.4%	9,840	67.9%	1,695	11.7%	1.8
19	Grande Prairie	26,325	21.9%	82,555	68.6%	11,505	9.6%	0.6
Alberta		779,155	19.2%	2,787,800	68.5%	500,215	12.3%	1.2

Map 1: Population Aged Less Than 5 Years

Percent of Dissemination Area Population, 2016



Map 2: Population Aged 65 Years and Older
Percent of Dissemination Area Population, 2016

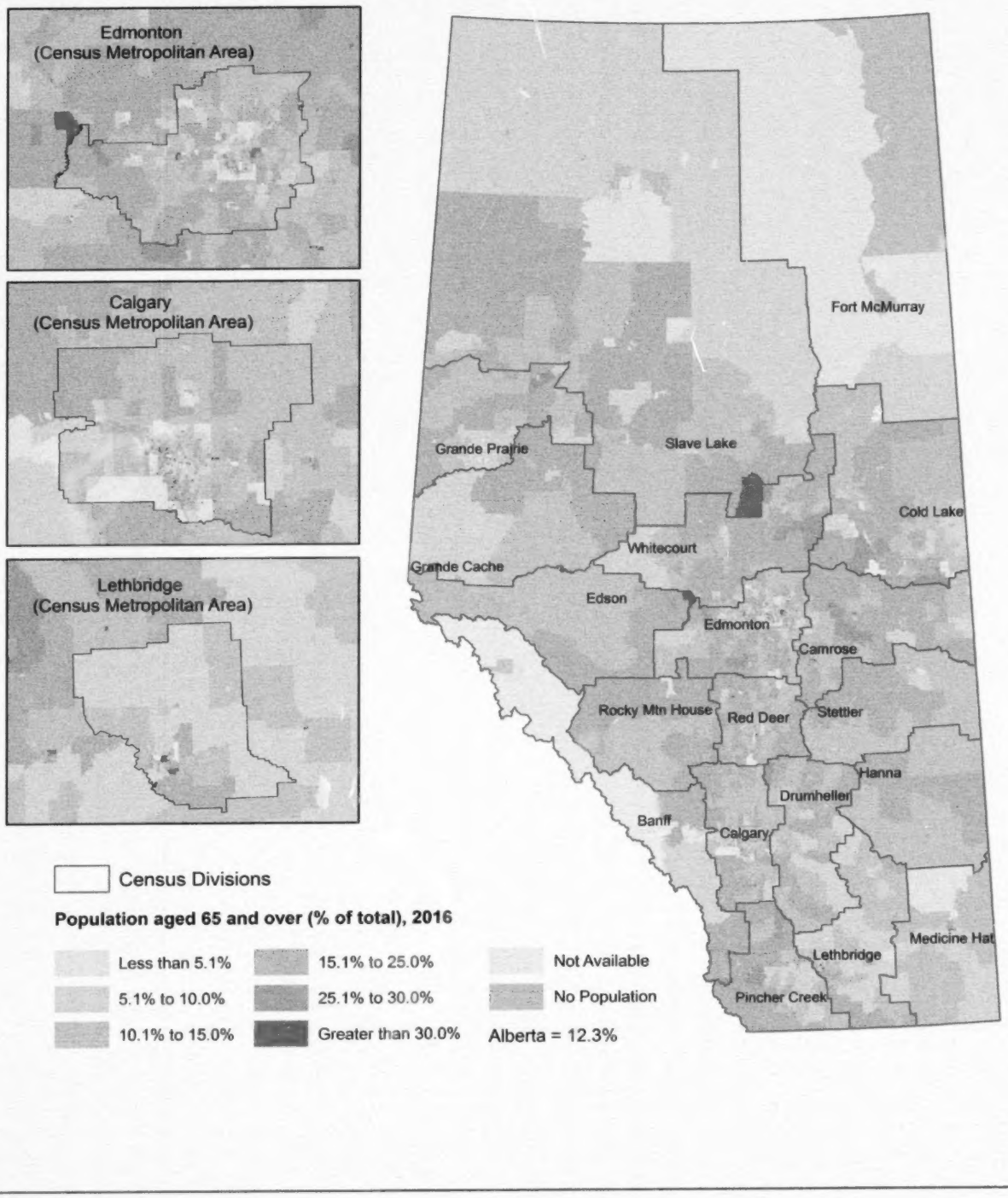


Table 2: Share of Total Population Aged 65 and Older by CMA and CA

Rank by 2016 Shares

Rank	Census Metropolitan Area	2016	2011	Change	Census Agglomeration	2016	2011	Change
1	Calgary (AB)	11.0	9.8	1.2	Wood Buffalo (AB)	2.8	1.9	0.9
2	Edmonton (AB)	12.3	11.4	0.9	Yellowknife (NT)	5.7	3.6	2.1
3	Saskatoon (SK)	12.8	12.1	0.7	Thompson (MN)	5.8	4.6	1.2
4	Regina (SK)	13.6	13.1	0.5	Cold Lake (AB)	6.1	5.6	0.5
5	Barrie (ON)	14.3	12.6	1.7	Grande Prairie (AB)	7.1	6.2	0.9
6	Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo (ON)	14.5	12.6	1.9	Fort St. John (BC)	7.9	6.9	1.0
7	Toronto (ON)	14.5	12.7	1.8	Petawawa (ON)	8.1	7.4	0.7
8	Oshawa (ON)	14.6	12.5	2.1	Sylvan Lake (AB)	8.5	6.8	1.7
9	St. John's (NL)	14.8	12.7	2.1	Lloydminster (AB/SK)	8.7	8.8	-0.1
10	Ottawa - Gatineau (ON/QC)	15.0	12.7	2.3	Okotoks (AB)	10.4	7.4	3.0
11	Guelph (ON)	15.2	13.4	1.8	Squamish (BC)	11.1	9.5	1.6
12	Winnipeg (MN)	15.4	14.1	1.3	Whitehorse (YT)	11.4	8.4	3.0
13	Lethbridge (AB)	15.6	14.4	1.2	Brooks (AB)	11.6	10.0	1.6
14	Halifax (N.S.)	15.7	13.1	2.6	Red Deer (AB)	12.0	10.4	1.6
15	Vancouver (BC)	15.7	13.5	2.2	Winkler (MN)	12.3	12.4	-0.1
16	Abbotsford - Mission (BC)	16.3	14.1	2.2	Dawson Creek (BC)	12.8	13.3	-0.5
17	Montréal (QC)	16.4	14.6	1.8	Estevan (SK)	12.8	12.6	0.2
18	London (ON)	17.1	15.0	2.1	Canmore (AB)	13.1	10.1	3.0
19	Windsor (ON)	17.2	14.9	2.3	Prince George (BC)	14.1	11.6	2.5
20	Moncton (NB)	17.3	14.6	2.7	Prince Rupert (BC)	14.3	11.8	2.5
21	Brantford (ON)	17.6	15.2	2.4	Brandon (MN)	14.8	13.5	1.3
22	Hamilton (ON)	17.9	16.0	1.9	Terrace (BC)	14.8	12.7	2.1
23	Saint John (NB)	18.2	15.1	3.1	Prince Albert (SK)	15.1	13.5	1.6
24	Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury (ON)	18.3	16.1	2.2	Timmins (ON)	15.2	13.8	1.4
25	Québec (QC)	19.2	15.9	3.3	Strathmore (AB)	15.6	12.6	3.0
26	Kingston (ON)	19.4	16.3	3.1	Lacombe (AB)	15.7	14.4	1.3
27	Sherbrooke (QC)	19.4	16.7	2.7	Ingersoll (ON)	15.8	14.2	1.6
28	Thunder Bay (ON)	19.8	17.2	2.6	Val-d'Or (ON)	15.9	13.2	2.7
29	Belleville (ON)	20.1	17.8	2.3	Sept-Îles (QC)	15.9	13.7	2.2
30	Saguenay (QC)	20.6	17.4	3.2	Steinbach (MN)	16.1	16.0	0.1
31	Victoria (BC)	21.1	18.4	2.7	Fredericton (NB)	16.4	13.9	2.5
32	Kelowna (BC)	21.4	19.2	2.2	Medicine Hat (AB)	16.6	14.8	1.8
33	St. Catharines - Niagara (ON)	21.8	19.2	2.6	Rouyn-Noranda (ON)	17.1	14.8	2.3
34	Peterborough (ON)	22.2	19.5	2.7	North Battleford (SK)	17.5	16	1.5
35	Trois-Rivières (QC)	22.3	19.4	2.9	Charlottetown (PE)	17.5	14.9	2.6